

Massapequa POST

East Massapequa, Massapequa, Massapequa Park, Plainedge, South Farmingdale and Long Island, New York

Plainedge Schools' Energy Performance Contract enters Phase II

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By Kelly Mayberry

The Plainedge School District is shrinking its carbon footprint one LED bulb at a time, reducing annual CO2 emissions at rates equivalent to operating 344 passenger vehicles, consuming 4,370 barrels of oil or powering 166 homes.

As discussed at the Board of Education meeting on April 20, 2021, the Plainedge School District will soon enter Phase II of an \$11M Energy Performance Contract (EPC) with The ECG Group. Phase I of the contract was completed mid-2016, and Phase III is expected to follow.

Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) allows school districts to take budgeted utility and operational costs and reallocate them into energy-saving capital. These improvements are possible without the need for increased taxes.

The ECG Group has worked with other school districts on Long Island including, in Nassau County: Valley Stream, Long Beach, Freeport and Mineola, and in Suffolk County: Kings Park, Central Islip, Sachem (Holbrook), and Middle Country (Centereach).

“For years, our board had watched these conservation measures in action at other schools; it was exciting,” said Superintendent Dr. Edward Salina. “We look forward to our district’s continued collaboration with Danny Haffel [account executive of the performance contract team] and the rest of The ECG Group.”

For the Plainedge School District, Phase II energy conservation measures include: LED light upgrades, temperature setback systems, demand-controlled ventilation, relief damper control, building weatherization, furnace controllers, pipe and valve insulation, energy-efficient transformers, plug load controllers, vending machine controllers and AC compressor controllers. The front windows at the high school will also be replaced.

Four buildings, all except Eastplain Elementary School, will also be fitted with roof-mounted photovoltaic panels, and annually:

- at Plainedge High School, 688.8 kW of energy generated by photovoltaic panels will meet 91% of electricity needs, equivalent to the powering of 76 homes;
- at Plainedge Middle School, 405.6 kW of energy generated by photovoltaic panels will meet 52% of electricity needs, equivalent to powering 45 homes;
- at John West Elementary School, 203.6 kW of energy generated by photovoltaic panels will meet 94% of electricity needs, equivalent to powering 23 homes;
- and at Charles E. Schwarting, 156 kW of energy generated by photovoltaic panels will meet 99% of electricity needs, equivalent to powering 17 homes.

The ECG Group predicts the use of solar energy, limited by available roof space on each building, will save the district \$266,072 annually.

The ECG Group is a “trusted, independent partner that seamlessly manages and leads energy performance contracts (EPCs) so school districts can be confident their energy-saving initiatives result in environmentally and fiscally responsible improvements and a world-class educational setting.” Their New York headquarters is located in Smithtown.